

### Writing Assignment for Unit One

- Include your **name, student number, course number, course title and unit number** on *each page* of your writing assignment (this is for your protection in case your materials become separated).
- Begin each writing assignment by identifying the question number you are answering followed by the actual question itself (in bold type).
- Use a standard essay format for responses to all questions (i.e., an introduction, middle paragraphs and conclusion).
- Responses must be submitted as a MS Word Document only, typed double-spaced, using a standard font (i.e. Times New Roman) and 12 point type size.

Word count is NOT one of the criteria that is used in assigning points to writing assignments. However, students who are successful in earning the maximum number of points tend to submit writing assignments that fall in the following ranges:

Undergraduate courses: 350 - 500 words or 1 - 2 pages.

Graduate courses: 500 - 750 words or 2 - 3 pages.

Doctoral courses: 750 - 1000 words or 4 - 5 pages.

#### **Plagiarism**

All work must be free of any form of plagiarism. **Put written answers into your own words.** Do not simply cut and paste your answers from the Internet and do not copy your answers from the textbook. Be sure to refer to the course syllabus for more details on plagiarism and proper citation styles.

Please answer **ONE** of the following:

1. Correlational, descriptive and historical research are classified under one category known as nonexperimental research. Explain how these types of research are the same and how they are different.
2. Discuss the characteristics of a good research hypothesis. What distinguishes a null hypothesis from a research hypothesis? How would you explain the difference between nondirectional research and directional research hypotheses?
3. Discuss the different types of sources (i.e. general, primary, and secondary). What are the differences among these sources? Why is it important that researchers utilize primary sources when conducting a thorough review of the literature?

### Writing Assignment for Unit Two

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Please answer **ONE** of the following:

1. Summarize the four levels of measurement first proposed by Stevens in 1951. Explain how knowing the level of measurement for variables helps a researcher examine outcomes in a study. Diagram the relationship of precision and levels of measurement.
2. Propose the reason that tests are so popular in the field of assessment and social research. Consider the type of information they provide and how they could be misused.
3. Outline the four steps in the data collection process. Explain why it is so important to be systematic in collecting data.

### Writing Assignment for Unit Three

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Please answer **ONE** of the following:

1. Explain how the results of a study can be statistically significant but not meaningful. Propose an example of when this might occur.
2. Illustrate what a visual inspection of your data through the use of a scatter plot can help you determine. Summarize the relationship between data points on a scatter plot and a correlation coefficient.
3. Distinguish qualitative research methods from those categorized as quantitative methods. Outline what types of questions qualitative research addresses that cannot be addressed by quantitative research.

### Writing Assignment for Unit Four

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Please answer **ONE** of the following:

1. Explain how the presence of a control group accounts for threats to internal validity. Summarize the types of threats to internal validity that can be avoided by utilizing random assignment to control and experimental groups.
2. Consider the tasks that every researcher should address when preparing for data collection and analyses. Illustrate their importance.
3. Discuss the APA guidelines researchers must follow for writing and formatting a manuscript for publication in peer review journals.